

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 IO-14 NEA-14 AID-20 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /165 W

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R 221130Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7019

INFO AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 9641

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR VS

SUBJ: LOWER HOUSE TO QUESTION PRIME MINISTER IN SPECIAL SESSION

1. LOWER HOUSE SOURCES HAVE INFORMED US THAT AN EXTRAORDINARY PLENARY SESSION OF THE LOWER HOUSE WILL MEET JULY 26 TO INTERPELLATE PRIME MINISTER HKIEM UNDER ARTICLE 40 OF THE CONSTITUTION AND ARTICLES 199-208 OF THE LOWER HOUSE RULES. THIS IS ON THE SIGNED PETITION OF 58 DEPUTIES, FIVE MORE THAN THE MINIMWX NEEDED TO DEMAND AN INTERPELLATION. MOST OF THE SIGNERS ARE MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION PEOPLE'S SOCIETY BLOC, THE OPPOSITION-LEANING NATIONALIST GROUP, AND THE INDEPENDENT PEOPLE'S RIGHTS GROUP, WITH A FEW PRO-ADMINISTRATION DEPUTIES REPORTEDLY JOINING AS WELL.

2. THE SUBJECT OF THE SESSION WILL BE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CEASEFIRE AND THE GENERAL NATIONAL SITUATION. KHIEM WILL APPEAR IN PERSON WITH A DELEGATION OF MINISTERS AND OTHER ADMINISTRATION FIGURES TO ANSWER THE DEPUTIES' QUESTIONS. HE HAS FORMALLY NOTIFIED THE HOUSE OF HIS INTENTION TO APPEAR.

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3. UNDER THE GROUND RULES OF THE SESSION AS WE UNDERSTAND THEM, KHIEM WILL FIRST DELIVER A SPEECH ON THE TOPIC OF THE DAY. THEN DEPUTIES (WHO MUST SIGN UP BEFOREHAND BUT NEED NOT REVEAL THEIR QUESTIONS UNTIL TAKING THE FLOOR) MAY ASK QUESTIONS BRIEFLY. WHEN THE INTERPELLATION IS FINISHED, THE HOUSE WILL VOTE TO SUPPORT OR OPPOSE KHIEM'S SET OF RESPONSES.

4. COMMENTS: THE SESSION PROMISES TO BE LIVELY. THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HAS RARELY APPLIED THE INTERPELLATION PROCEDURE, THE LAST TIME REPORTEDLY BEING IN 1970. INTERESTINGLY, WHILE THIS IS AN INITIATIVE OF THE OPPOSITION WITH ANTI-ADMINISTRATION OVERTONES, IT HAS EVIDENTLY BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE THE DEMOCRACY PARTY LEADERSHIP IN THE HOUSE AS A WORTHWHILE MOVE ENHANCING THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY'S IMAGE IN THE SPIRIT OF THE RECENT FERTILIZER INVESTIGATION OF THE UPPER HOUSE. LOWER HOUSE FIRST DEPUTY CHAIRMAN DINH XUAN MINH SPOKE APPROVINGLY OF THE UPCOMING SESSION IN A JULY 19 CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS. HE HOPED THE OPPOSITION DEPUTIES WOULD BEHAVE RESPONSIBLY, AND HE SEEMED PLEASED AT THE CHANCE FOR DIALOGUE WITH THEM.
LEHMANN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRIME MINISTER, ARMISTICE, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, LOWER HOUSE, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SAIGON09641
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740197-0338
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740728/aaaaaybf.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 APR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOWER HOUSE TO QUESTION PRIME MINISTER IN SPECIAL SESSION
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, VS, (KHIEM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005